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Tuition Assistance Policy

2019-2020

Statement

The Houston Sudbury School tuition rate is set and approved annually by the school Assembly. HSS recognizes that some families will not be able to afford full tuition. HSS will offer reduced tuition to families based on their ability to pay. The purpose of our Tuition Assistance program is to make the school affordable for all families regardless of income, therefore growing the school, increasing diversity, and enriching the community for all. While HSS will work with families to make enrollment for their child(ren) possible, the school will also set clear contractual expectations about tuition payment. If a family seeks tuition assistance, HSS will ask that the family recognize that, while HSS is a non-profit organization, tuition is directly related to the quality of what the school offers. HSS asks that families make every effort to pay full tuition and consider the financial needs of the school when making a request for reduced tuition. Families already enrolled at HSS and making contracted payments may request an adjustment of future payments only if a significant life-altering event makes meeting future payment obligations impossible. Granting such a request for adjusted payments will be at the discretion of the Tuition Assistance Committee. Under no circumstances shall any refunds be issued for payments already made to the school. Families must re-apply for Tuition Assistance annually.

Process

Families requesting reduced tuition must:

1. Request reduced tuition at the time of (re)enrollment.
2. Complete the Tuition Assistance Application online.
3. Meet with the school's Finance Clerk to discuss and accept assistance offer.

Applications will be reviewed by the Finance Clerk/Tuition Assistance Committee, which may ask for additional information. While financial documentation is not released by TADS to anyone in the school community, HSS trusts that families will act honestly and with concern for the school's financial stability.

Expectations

- Families will pay as much as possible toward full tuition.
- Once accepted, the contract will be considered a commitment on the part of the family to pay the amount agreed upon. The contract will only be renegotiated following a significant event that alters the family's ability to pay and at the discretion of the TAC.
- Tuition Assistance contracts are for a single school year. Should circumstances persist, families are welcome to reapply for subsequent school years.
- Families will pursue all avenues possible to pay full tuition — such as reducing other expenses and seeking help from extended family.